

REMARKS

Claims 1, 8, 9, 11, 18 and 36 are presented for consideration, with Claims 1 and 18 being independent.

Independent Claims 1 and 18 have been amended to further distinguish Applicants' invention from the cited art. In addition, Claims 6, 7, 10, 13 and 37 have been cancelled.

In amending the claims, better antecedent basis for the "reception information" has been provided in Claims 1 and 18. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the claims is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 6-11, 13, 18, 36 and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Negishi '278 in view of Birkler '103. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' invention as set forth in Claim 1 relates to an information processing method for maintaining, in a system in which each of a plurality of client processes connected via an information transmission medium holds and uses shared data to be shared by the plurality of client processes, consistency of shared data held by the respective plurality of client processes. The method includes an input step of inputting a manipulation request, a determining step of determining a mode, based on designation information used to designate a mode to be adopted to each of a plurality of items included in the shared data, and manipulation contents of the input manipulation request, from a plurality of modes including a first mode, a second mode and a third mode, and a processing step of executing a process corresponding to the

manipulation request in accordance with the determined mode. The determining step determines that the mode corresponding to the manipulation request is the first mode or the second mode, when the manipulation contents of the manipulation request is based on a user's interactive manipulation. The processing step includes a sending step of sending, when the manipulation request requests a manipulation of the shared data, request information that represents the manipulation request to a server process, a reception step of receiving response information corresponding to the request information sent in the sending step, from the server process, and a manipulation execution step of executing a manipulation for the shared data in accordance with the manipulation request or the response information received in the reception step.

As also set forth in Claim 1, in a case where it is determined that the mode corresponding to the input manipulation request is the first mode, the manipulation execution step manipulates the shared data in response to the manipulation request, and the sending step sends the request information indicating the manipulation request to the server process. In a case where it is determined that the mode corresponding to the input manipulation request is the second mode, the sending step sends the request information indicating the manipulation request to the server process in response to the manipulation request, and the manipulation execution step manipulates the shared data based on the manipulation request indicated by a reception information in response to reception of the reception information when the reception information is received from the server process within a time limit of manipulation execution. The manipulation execution step manipulates the shared data in accordance with the manipulation request corresponding to the request information when the reception information is not received

from the server process within a time limit of manipulation execution. As amended, in a case where it is determined that the mode corresponding to the input manipulation request is the third mode, the sending step sends, in accordance with the manipulation request, request information that represents the manipulation request to the server process, and the manipulation execution step manipulates the shared data in accordance with the manipulation request corresponding to the request information in response to reception of the reception information.

In accordance with Applicants' claimed invention, a high performance information processing method, capable of operating in three different modes, is provided for maintaining consistency of shared data held by a plurality of client processes. Support for the amendments to Claim 1 can be found, for example, on page 8, line 16, *et. seq.*, of the specification.

As discussed in the previous Amendment of October 29, 2007, the Negishi patent relates to a system for sharing data between multiple computers A and B. With reference to Figure 2, computer A is shown to transmit response BT or response SBT. As understood, the transmitted data in Negishi can be manipulated to control a correct order of manipulation requests, regardless of what order they are received in.

In contrast to Applicants' invention, however, Negishi does not teach or suggest, among other features, providing first, second and third modes for controlling a manipulation request, as well as having the capability of controlling the execution timing of the manipulation request. In the second mode of Applicants' invention, for example, the manipulation execution step manipulates the shared data based on the manipulation request

indicated by a reception information when the reception information is received from the server process within a time limit of manipulation execution.

The secondary citation to Birkler relates to an instant messaging system and is relied on, with respect to Claim 1, for a teaching of using a time out method in order to respond back to a request. Birkler fails, however, to teach or suggest the three modes and the manner of manipulating the shared data in each mode as set forth in Claim 1 of Applicants' invention. Therefore, the proposed combination of Negishi and Birkler, even if proper, still fails to teach or suggest Applicants' claimed invention.

Claim 18 relates to an information processing apparatus that corresponds substantially to Claim 1. Claim 18 has thus been amended to include a determining unit configured to determine a first, second and third mode, and a manipulation execution unit that manipulates the shared data based on the determined first, second and third mode. Claim 18 is thus also submitted to be patentable over the cited art for the reasons discussed above.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is respectfully requested.

Thus, it is submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in independent Claims 1 and 18 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent Claims 6, 8, 9, 11 and 36 set forth additional features of Applicants' invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Due consideration and prompt passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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